

St. Andrews Benevolent Society

Address: 431 E. Congress

Local

State v 4/24/81

State Marker

National



St. Andrews, 2002



Historic Overview:

The St. Andrew's Benevolent Society is one of the oldest benevolent societies in the State of Michigan. The Society was officially formed on November 30, 1849. One of the leading Benevolent Societies in Detroit, activities included raising funds for poor members and other Scottish families in need. The Ladies Auxiliary, founded in 1910, also held fundraising events, managed the Hall and held receptions after Society meetings. Originally an all-male society, members were Scots by birth or descended from Scots. In 1985 Florence Margaret Michie Stahl, became the first woman member of the society. She later also became the first female president.

The building, originally known as St. Andres Hall was built in 1907. The main floor of the building had a ballroom and stage. In 1994 the building was sold to a music promoter who uses the building as a venue for a variety of music concerts. The society now meets at various locations throughout the metropolitan Detroit area with an office in Southfield. Original records of the Society have been donated to the Burton Historical Library in the Detroit Public Library.¹

¹ Information obtained at the St. Andrew's Benevolence Society website www.highlandgames.com in a history written by Fred Dunbar Wessells

